

TABL Article 7-13

Final Informational Meetings for Postdocs on UAW Organizing Drive

The UAW's effort to organize postdocs within the UC system, including here at the Lab, is continuing.

Previously it was reported that the Lab and UC are taking a neutral position in this matter because of the law in the State of California. Bill Elkins, Manager of Labor/Employee Relations, noted that the important thing is that "our postdocs make an informed choice as to whether or not to be exclusively represented for purposes of collective bargaining." Under the law, the UAW can be certified as the exclusive representative for the postdocs without a secret ballot election if the union obtains valid signed authorization cards from 50% plus one of the employees in the proposed bargaining unit.

Elkins notes that the UAW effort is continuing UC systemwide and it remains unclear whether it will propose a systemwide unit or a separate postdoc unit here at the Lab. Meanwhile, Elkins said that his office continues to get questions from postdocs who thought that signing an authorization card would only determine whether a secret ballot election would be held, and who did not understand that a card signing can constitute a vote if over 50% within a proposed unit sign such cards, resulting in the UAW being declared the exclusive representative for postdocs without an election.

The final informational meetings will be held for postdocs from 10:00 -11:00 am Thursday, July 13 and on the following Thursday, July 20 in the Bldg 50 Auditorium. Elkins notes that every postdoc should attend an informational meeting on this issue: "Postdocs who have not yet attended such a meeting are encouraged to do so, as it will help them to make informed choice on the question of exclusive representation by the UAW."